HEALTH
14 DEC 50
D.R.

BUCKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

COPY REPORT

OF

DR. A. CATHCART

M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M.& H., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR 1949

COUNCIL OFFICES,

BUCKLEY,

NR. CHESTER.

Miss Catherall and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present herewith my Annual Report on the health of the Buckley Urban District for the year 1949.

I would like to call attention to the more important points which appear in the Report.

The total live births in the District have risen from 141 in 1948 to 137 in 1949, and in consequence the BIRTH RATE has risen from 17.399 per 1000 of the population in 1948 to 17.97 per 1000 of the population in 1949. This rate of 17.97 is higher than the rate for England and Wales which is 16.7 per 1000 of the population for the year 1949.

The total deaths in the District have fallen from 79 in 1948 to 76 in 1949, so that the DEATH RATE per 1000 of the population has fallen from 10.49 in 1948 to 9.97 in 1949, whilst the Death Rate for England and Wales is 11.7 per 1000 of the population.

It will be observed that not only has the Birth Rate risen and the Death Rate fallen compared with the previous year, but also that these rates compare favourably with the Rates for England and Wales as a whole.

There were no deaths of infants under the age of one year in the year 1949, so that the INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE IS NIL. This fact should be coupled with the fact that 137 babies have been born during the year. That not one single death occurred in children under 1 year of age is a remarkable event. The Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales per 100 live births is 32 for 1949, which if applied for the Buckley District would represent the deaths of 4 children under 1 year of age during the year. In the year 1948 there were 9 infant deaths under the age of one year, the live births being 131 per 1000 with an Infantile Mortality Rate of 68.69 per 1000 Live Births. It is perhaps fitting here to record that it reflects great credit on all concerned with the Maternity and Child Welfare Services that the Infantile Mortality Rate is Nil for 1949. The Doctors Midwives, Maternity Homes, Ante-Natal Clinics, and Health Visitors deserve credit, as well as the Child Welfare Clinics, and all concerned with the activities of Maternity and Child Welfare in the County in general, and in Buckley in particular. The satisfactory state of Infantile Mortality, also, is reflected in the fall of the Total Death Rate.

The principal cause of death was disease of the circulatory system, including heart disease, which accounted for 40 of the 76 deaths, which is 52.6% of all deaths. Cancer was responsible for 13 deaths, which is 17.1% of all deaths.

The deaths from Tuberculosis were 2, a rate of .26 per 1000 of the population, showing no change from the year 1948. The Tuberculosis Death Rate for England and Wales is 0.45 per 1000 of the population for the year 1949. Again there were no deaths from Diphtheria. There were no deaths from Childbirth or conditions associated with Childbirth.

The District was comparatively healthier than England and Wales as a whole with respect to Infectious Diseases. For instance, the rate for Measles was 0.39 per 1000 in Buckley, as compared with 8.95 per 1000 for England and Wales.

In conclusion, Miss Catherall and Gentlemen, I must thank the Chairman, Members of the Health Committee for their helpful co-operation during the year, your Clerk, Mr. Hughes, for his advice and guidance, Mr. Watkin, your Sanitary Inspector, for his loyal co-operation, and indeed all your officials for their friendly and willing assistance which they have afforded to me during this my first year as your Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to be,

Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) ...	2677
Population (Census 1931) ...	6900
Population (Estimated December 1949)	7622
Density (Number of persons per acre)	2.85
Number of inhabited houses (December 1949)	2099
Number of occupied houses owned by Local Authority	373
New houses Certified ...	16
Births ...	137.
Birth Rate (per 1000 of population)	17.97
Deaths ...	76.
Death Rate (per 1000 of population)	9.97
Infantile Mortality (per 1000 live births)	Nil.
Death Rate of all forms of TUBERCULOSIS (rate per 1000 population)	0.26

STATISTICS and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) ...	2677
Population (Census 1921) ...	6726
Population (Census 1931) ...	6900
Population (Estimated December 1949)	7622
Number of inhabited houses (December 1949)	2099
Rateable value	£26847
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£104. 2. 6.

The Buckley Urban District is situated on a foothill of the Clwydian Range to the North East of the County of Flint, and is bounded on the North, East and South by the Hawarden Rural District, and in the North, West, and South by the Holywell Rural District.

The subsoil is clay in the greater part of the area. Below are the lower coal measures now very little worked. The principal industries are Brick and Tile and Pipe Works, together with Agriculture.

During 1949 The Tunnel Portland Cement Works situated at Padeswood to the South of Buckley came into production.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		M.	F.	Total	
LIVE BIRTHS -	Legitimate	78	54	132	Birth Rate per 1000 population - 17.97 .
	Illegitimate	3	2	5	
STILL BIRTHS -	Legitimate	1	3	4	Rate per 1000 total births (Live and Still births) - 28.3 .
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Legitimate	-	-	-	
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	
DEATHS		46	30	76	

Death Rate (per 1000 population) - 9.97
Death Rate England and Wales -11.7

Deaths from diseases and accidents of Pregnancy and Childbirth:-

From Sepsis ...	0
From other causes ...	0

Death Rates of Infamts under 1 year:-

All infants per 1000 live births	0
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate LIVE BIRTHS	0
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate LIVE BIRTHS	0

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under 2 years)	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	13

CAUSES OF DEATH

ALL CAUSES	M.	F.
	46	30
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever ...	-	-
4. Whooping Cough ...	-	-
5. Diphtheria ...	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	2	-
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-
8. Syphilitic diseases ...	-	-
9. Influenza ...	-	-
10. Measles ...	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio Encephalitis	-	-
12. Acute Infective Encephalitis	-	-
13. Cancer of the mouth and Oesophagus (M)	1	-
	-	-
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	4
15. Cancer of breast ...	-	1
16. Cancer of all other sites	2	1
17. Diabetes ...	1	-
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	6	1
19. Heart Disease ...	13	17
20. Other diseases of Circulatory system	2	1
21. Bronchitis ...	4	1
22. Pneumonia ...	-	-
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	-
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	-
25. Diarrhoea under two years	-	-
26. Appendicitis ...	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases...	1	-
28. Nephritis ...	1	-
29. Puerperal or postabortional sepsis	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes ...	-	-
31. Premature birth ...	-	-
32. Congenital malformation: birth injury: infantile	-	-
33. Suicide ...	-	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents ...	-	-
35. Other violent causes ...	2	-
36. All other causes ...	4	3

Comparitive Table of Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in 1949.

	Rates per 1000 Civilian Population	
	England & Wales	Buckley U.D.
BIRTHS		
Live Births	16.7	17.97
Still Births	.39	.52
DEATHS		
All causes	11.7	9.97
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.45	0.26
Influenza	0.15	0.00
Small Pox	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.51	0.26
NOTIFICATIONS		
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.02	0.13
Scarlet Fever	1.63	1.05
Whooping Cough	2.39	1.44
Diphtheria	0.04	0.00
Erysipelas	0.19	0.26
Small Pox	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.95	0.39
Pneumonia	0.80	0.79
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.13	0.13
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.14	0.00

DEATHS	Rates per 1000 Live Births.	
All causes under 1 year of age	32.00	0.00
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.00	0.00

NOTIFICATIONS.	Rates per 1000 Total (Live & Still) Births.	
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	6.31	0.00

HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Public Health Officials of the URBAN Authority consist of:-

Medical Officer of Health - Dr.David Fraser,M.B.(until 31st Mar.1949)

Dr.A.Cathcart, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.T.M.& H., D.P.H. (from 1st April,1949

Sanitary Inspector A.G.Watkin, M.S.I.A.
Certificate R.S.I. and S.I.J.B.
Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Foods.
Certificate R.S.I. Smoke Inspector.

NURSING IN THE HOME - The District Nursing Association is now administered by the Flintshire County Council.

MIDWIVES - There are three qualified Midwives in the Urban District.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE - Three qualified Medical Practitioners reside in the area and they are responsible for the treatment of persons under the above Act. Of these three Medical Practitioners, who are Principals in practice, two have one Assistant each. One of these assistant Medical Practitioners resides inside the Urban District. So that, in all, five Medical Practitioners are available for the population of Buckley and contiguous rural areas.

LABORATORY FACILITIES - This work is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Conway. The Laboratory attached to the Chester Royal Infirmary is also available for investigations of a particular or urgent nature.

HOSPITALS
Isolation - None. Infectious disease cases needing isolation and treatment are now sent to the Isolation Hospital at Pentrobin in the Hawarden Rural District, or are accommodated by arrangement with the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee.

Smallpox - None.

Tuberculosis - None. Cases from the area are sent to the Welsh National Memorial Hospital at Meadowslea, Penyffordd, about three miles away, and may be transferred from there on the recommendation of the tuberculosis Medical Officer for Denbighshire and Flintshire, to the Sanatorium at Llangwyfan, Denbigh, or one of the other Welsh Sanatoria.

Maternity - None. A County Maternity Hospital is situated at Mancot Royal, approximately four and a half miles away. Pathological cases may be sent to one of the Chester Hospitals.

Childrens. - None. Children are hospitalised at the Chester Royal Infirmary, or occasionally in special cases at the Children's Hospital, Myrtle Street, Liverpool.

General Hospitals - Emergency cases may be sent to the Royal Infirmary or City Hospital, Chester, or occasionally to the Cottage Hospital, Mold.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS, AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

Homeless Children - Provision is made by the County Council at the St.Asaph Institution.

Mental Defectives.- The supervision of cases under the Mental Deficiency Acts is carried out by the County Council.

Ambulance facilities.- This service is provided by the County Council.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare - There is an Ante-Natal centre and Infant Child Welfare Centre conducted by the County Council at the Welsh C.M. Schoolroom, the former on the first and third Monday afternoon, and the latter every Monday afternoon.

Day Nurseries - None.

School Clinics - A School Clinic supervised by the County Medical Officer of Health and his assistants is held on the Tuesday of each week in the Welsh C.M. Schoolroom.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries - None in the area. There is a visiting Station at "Oaklands", Queensferry, at which the Tuberculosis Officer or his assistant see patients once a fortnight. There is also a Clinic every Monday and Thursday afternoon at Meadowslea Hospital, Penyffordd.

Venereal Diseases - None. Cases are sent to the Venereal Diseases clinic at the Royal Infirmary, Chester, by arrangement between the County Authorities and the Chester Royal Infirmary.

WATER - The water supply is provided by the Hawarden and District Waterworks Company. This Company impounds upland water in the Mountains at Cilcain about 10 miles away from Buckley. The water is clarified, softened, filtered and chlorinated before delivery to service reservoirs at Buckley. In July it was found that water was becoming contaminated with surface coliforms in the reservoir at Buckley, that is to say, that the water was a Grade I water before entering the reservoir but that there was coliform contamination after storage. The situation was dealt with by the installation of a Chlorinator at the Reservoir with the result that for a time there were complaints of a "taste in the water" due to over chlorination. The Hawarden Waterworks Company took immediate steps to cover the Reservoirs and by the end of the year one Reservoir was completely covered. The covering of the second Reservoir is proceeding and it will be completed in the early months of 1950. The samples of water taken subsequent to the covering of the Reservoir have been satisfactory.

Closet Accommodation - Below I give a table showing the Number of dwellinghouses in each Ward and the various types of Closets in use therein:-

Name of Ward	No. of houses.	Pail Closets.	Water Closets.	Total.
Ewloe Town	269	131	138	269
Ewloe Wood	273	156	117	273
Pentrobin	342	72	270	342
Argoed	326	32	294	326
Bistre East	377	29	348	377
Bistre West	512	73	439	512
TOTAL	2099	493	1606	2099

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection - is carried out by direct labour.

Smoke abatement
No action was necessary with a view to smoke abatement.

SCHOOLS

Name of School	Situation	Water Supply
St. Matthews.	Church Road.	Hawarden Waterworks Co.
St. Matthews Infants.	" "	" " "
Lane End Infants.	Chester Road.	" " "
Bistre C. of E.	Mold Road.	" " "
Buckley Council.	Padeswood Road.	" " "

Swimming Baths.
The swimming and plunge baths situated behind the Public Library were a gift of the Miners Welfare Committee. The water is supplied by the Hawarden Waterworks Company. It is filtered, chlorinated, and aerated continuously throughout the season. There are no privately owned Baths or Pools.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.
Disinfestation was carried out in three dwellinghouses.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

There are no such premises or occupations.

There are no premises within the area on which rag flock is manufactured or sold.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:-

1 (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	151
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	267
2 (a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	19
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	41
3.	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	Nil.
4.	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation... ...	79

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 52

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year 1949

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices

(a) By Owners ... Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:

(a) By Owners ... Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil.

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ... Nil.

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ... Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil.

The following sanitary improvements have been effected during the year ended the 31st December, 1949.

Pail Closets abolished	9
New water closets erected	25
Old drains taken up	10
New drains laid down	27
Inspection chambers provided	20
Drains trapped	6
New sinks provided	10
New trapped waste pipes provided	15
Roofs repaired	29
New doors provided	21
New ashbins provided	96
Ashpits abolished	1
Floors repaired and renewed	17
Eaves, gutters and downspouts repaired and renewed	13
Damp proof courses provided	2
Yards paved	3
Food stores provided	9
Houses inspected	184
Houses repaired	106
Visits to houses	391
Visits to food premises	33

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Visits to infected houses	16
Houses disinfected	13

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths.
Small Pox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	8	7	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Pneumonia	6	-	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	1
Measles	3	-	-
Whooping Cough	11	-	-
Erysipelas	2	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Acute Polio Myelitis	1	1	-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1949.

	Disease											
	Acute Polio-myelitis	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Small Pox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia	Measles	Whooping Cough
Under 1 year								2				4
1 and under 2												2
2 and under 3												1
3 and under 4				1								
4 and under 5				1							1	4
5 and under 10				3				1				
10 and under 15	1			3							2	
15 and under 20												
20 and under 35		1										
35 and under 45									2			
45 and under 65								1				
65 and over								2				
Total cases Notified	1	1		8				6	2		3	11
Cases sent to Hospital	1	1		7					1			
TOTAL DEATHS		1						2				

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and mortality during

the year 1949

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm.		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1								
1 - 5								
5 - 10								
10 -15								
15 - 20								
20 - 25		1						
25 - 35		1						
35 - 45					1			
45 - 55	1							
55 - 65		1			1			
65 & over	1							
TOTAL:	2	3			2			

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The County Council Medical Department have kindly provided me with the following statistics for the year 1949 :-

Number of Children (Ages 1-15) immunised during 1949.

Age at 31.12.49 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1949	1 1948	2 1947	3 1946	4 1945	5-9 1940/44	10-14 1935/39
Buckley U.D.	4	42	12	4	4	5	2

Percentage in relation to Child Population of all children immunised in the years from 1935 - 1949 inclusive:-

Buckley U.D. - 54.8 %

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

CASES						
Notified	Treated at home	In Hospital	Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

No samples of milk were taken during the year. This service is carried out by the Flintshire County Council.

SHIPPONS AND DAIRIES.

These have been inspected and where necessary improvements have been carried out. The milk supply as a whole is produced and retailed under good hygienic conditions. With effect from the 1st.October,1949, the majority of the powers for dealing with these premises were transferred to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The whole of the slaughtering for the Buckley Urban area is carried out at the Ministry of Food Regional Abattoir, Mold. Meat Inspection is carried out by the Mold Meat Inspector, or by the Buckley Urban District Meat Inspector in his absence. No statistics are available for inclusion in this Report, but no doubt these are included in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Mold. Meat is regularly inspected in Butcher's shops in the area, and during the year the following meat and offal has been condemned:-

Meat Condemned.	Cause of Condemnation	Weight.
1 Carcase Lamb.	Decomposition.	41 lbs.
1 Side of Veal	"	16 lbs.
1 Ox Liver	"	12 lbs.

Total weight of Meat condemned - 69 lbs.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following foodstuffs were examined and condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

Food Condemned	Cause of Condemnation	Weight.
5 tins Pork & Pork Brawn.	Blown tins.	8 lbs. 10 ozs.
1 tin Spaghetti	Blown tin	1 lb.
1 tin Tomatoes	" "	2 lbs. 8 ozs.
16 tins Sandwich Spread	Blown tins.	8 lbs.
5 tins Vegetables.	" "	5 lbs. 14 ozs.
6 tins Condensed and Evaporated Milk	" "	5 lbs.
15 tins fruit	" "	29 lbs.
1 tin Marmalade	Blown tin	2 lbs.
24 tins Soups	Blown tins	15 lbs.
1 tin Fish	Blown tin	1 lb.
1 tin Cream Substitute	Decomposition	20 lbs.
Butter	Rancid	47 lbs.
Yeast	Loss of Power	21 lbs.

Total weight - 166 lbs.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT
OF THE YEAR 1949
FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BUCKLEY.

Prescribed particulars on the
Administration of the Factories
Act,1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health(including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.)

Premises	No.on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4,and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	11	12	1	-
2. Factories not included in 1 above in which sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	32	32	-	-
3. Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	2	2	-	-
TOTAL:	45	46	1	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	No.of cases in which defects were found				No.of cases in which prosecutions instituted.
	Found	Remed-ied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspect-or	By H.M. Inspect-or	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	1	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Innefective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	1	1	-	1	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK
(Sections 110 & 111)

- NIL -